

Guidelines for Writing Paper 1

PAPER 1 (HL and SL): Extended Response

Part (a): Explain (definitions, diagrams and examples)

- This part usually begins with the command word (instruction) “Explain.” Therefore, this section of the essay will **not** include any evaluation.
- In this part, you are likely to lay out some basic theory on the topic. Decide before you start writing which models and diagrams you will use.
- As always, you should provide definitions, diagrams and examples to support your answer.
- Do not write in point form. Use sentences and paragraphs to organize your ideas.
- If possible, try to make a linking sentence between parts (a) and (b). That is, try to write something in the last sentence of (a) that leads you into part (b)
- Essays in economics (like Part a) that do not require evaluation always look rather similar. They usually contain the following elements:
 - some writing at the beginning, in which key terms are identified and defined;
 - followed by a diagram;
 - followed by written explanation in which theory is applied and the diagram is used.
 - Wherever possible, real-world examples should be used to support your answer.

Part (b): Evaluate (more definitions and diagrams AND stakeholders, long-run/short-run, policies

- This part almost always begins with the command word “Evaluate.” In this section, you will still have to explain the theory and use definitions, diagrams and examples, but **you need to go beyond a mere explanation**.
- You must read the question carefully to identify what it is that you are expected to evaluate.
- Remember that evaluation takes many forms and you might look at any of the following:
 - The effect on different stakeholders
 - Long-run vs. Short-run effects
 - Advantage and disadvantages
 - Government policies that can achieve desired effects and the advantages and disadvantages of these policies
 - When using the AS-AD model, you should consider comparing and contrasting the views of Keynesians and Neoclassical economists in respect to the effects discussed in your analysis.
- However, it is not enough to simply list any of the above arguments. It is important to actually give **value** to the points. For example, you could say:
 - The **biggest** disadvantage is _____ because _____.
 - The effect on _____ is the most important because _____.
 - While the effect on _____ is important, it is perhaps more significant that _____ because _____.
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- Wherever remotely possible, include real examples. Top mark bands include a reference to examples.
- You should attempt to make a conclusion that ties together the two parts of the question and presents some final evaluation, although this is not always possible.

